

## PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

(11)Publication number : 2001-333365

(43) Date of publication of application : 30.11.2001

(51)Int.Cl.

H04N 5/907

H04N 5/225

H04N 5/232

H04N 7/18

// H04N101:00

(21)Application number : 2000-148511

(71)Applicant : OLYMPUS OPTICAL CO LTD

(22)Date of filing : 19.05.2000

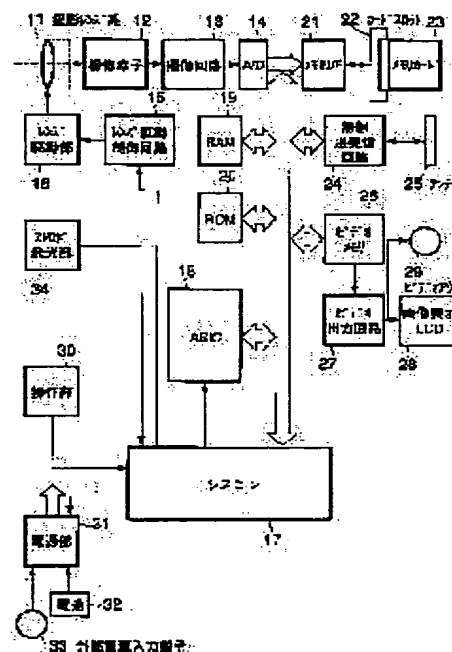
(72)Inventor : TOYODA TETSUYA

(54) ELECTRONIC CAMERA AND RECORDING MEDIUM

(57) Abstract:

**PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED:** To provide an electronic camera which can easily share the image data with other electronic cameras and also to provide a recording medium.

**SOLUTION:** This electronic camera is provided with an image pickup means 12 which performs photoelectric conversion of a formed object image to obtain the electronic image data, a group setting means 17 which sets a group with other electronic cameras for sharing the image data with them, a transmission means 24 which transmits by radio the data on the photographed images to other electronic cameras set in a group by the mean 17, a reception means 24 which receives the image data from said other grouped electronic cameras and the recording means 21 and 22 which record the image data obtained by the means 12 or the image data received by the reception means 24 on a recording medium 23.



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## CLAIMS

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[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] An electronic camera comprising:

An imaging means for carrying out photoelectric conversion of the object image by which image formation was carried out, and obtaining electronic image data.

A group setting means for performing other electronic cameras and group setting that image data should be shared among other electronic cameras.

A transmitting means for transmitting image data of a picture photoed to other electronic cameras in which group setting was carried out by the above-mentioned group setting means by radio.

A recording device for recording image data which received by reception means for receiving image data transmitted from other electronic cameras in which group setting was carried out by the above-mentioned group setting means, and image data or the above-mentioned reception means acquired by the above-mentioned imaging means on a recording medium.

[Claim 2] The electronic camera according to claim 1 which is provided with the following and characterized by constituting the above-mentioned group setting means so that group setting may be performed, when it has been recognized that group information is memorized by the above-mentioned recognition means.

A mounting means for equipping with the above-mentioned recording medium.

A recognition means for recognizing whether group information is memorized by recording medium with which the above-mentioned mounting means was equipped.

[Claim 3] The electronic camera according to claim 2, wherein the above-mentioned transmitting means and the above-mentioned reception means are made possible when it has been recognized that group information is memorized by the above-mentioned recognition means by transmission and reception.

[Claim 4] The electronic camera according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the above-mentioned transmitting means is constituted according to release operation so that image data obtained by the above-mentioned imaging means may be automatically transmitted to other electronic cameras set up by the above-mentioned group setting means.

[Claim 5] When it is made possible by setting out so that it may function as a master or a slave in a group set up by the above-mentioned group setting means, and set as a master, In a case where there are other electronic cameras furthermore it receives image data transmitted from other electronic cameras which are functioning as a slave and is functioning as a slave, When it is constituted so that this image data may be transmitted to the electronic camera, and set as a slave, The electronic camera according to any one of claims 1 to 4 constituting so that image data obtained by the above-mentioned imaging means may be transmitted to other electronic cameras which are functioning as a master.

[Claim 6] It has a detection means for detecting whether other electronic cameras by which group setting was carried out [ above-mentioned ] exist within limits which can be transmitted and received according to the above-mentioned transmitting means and the above-mentioned reception means, When an existence of other electronic cameras by which group setting was carried out by the above-mentioned detection means is not detected, The electronic camera according to claim 5 setting up self function as a master, and setting up self function as a slave when an existence of other electronic cameras by which group setting was carried out by the above-mentioned detection means is detected.

[Claim 7] The electronic camera according to any one of claims 1 to 6 provided with a setting-out means for setting up a file name so that a file name of image data obtained by photography between electronic cameras by which group setting was carried out [ above-mentioned ] may not overlap.

[Claim 8] A recording medium with which it is a recording medium with which the electronic camera

according to claim 2 can be equipped, and the above-mentioned group information for performing group setting that image data should be shared among two or more electronic cameras was recorded beforehand.

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## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

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[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention]This invention relates to the art which can send and receive a taken image between an electronic camera and a recording medium, especially two or more electronic cameras.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art]The art for which image data is sent and received between electronic cameras, using a cable or infrared rays in JP,9-284696,A for example as what has possible sending and receiving image data is indicated.

[0003]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention]However, since it was necessary to perform transmission instruction of image data after photography, the operation for it was complicated and it was not easy to share image data among two or more electronic cameras to send the picture photoed with each one of electronic cameras for the travel etc. to other electronic cameras.

[0004]This invention is made to the above-mentioned conventional technical problem, and it aims at providing the electronic camera and recording medium which can share image data easily between electronic cameras.

[0005]

[Means for Solving the Problem]An electronic camera concerning this invention is provided with the following.

An imaging means for carrying out photoelectric conversion of the object image by which image formation was carried out, and obtaining electronic image data.

A group setting means for performing other electronic cameras and group setting that image data should be shared among other electronic cameras.

A transmitting means for transmitting image data of a picture photoed to other electronic cameras in which group setting was carried out by the above-mentioned group setting means by radio, A recording device for recording image data which received by reception means for receiving image data transmitted from other electronic cameras in which group setting was carried out by the above-mentioned group setting means, and image data or the above-mentioned reception means acquired by the above-mentioned imaging means on a recording medium.

[0006]The desirable mode of the above-mentioned electronic camera is as follows.

[0007](1) A recording medium with which a mounting means and the above-mentioned mounting means for equipping with the above-mentioned recording medium were equipped is equipped with a recognition means for recognizing whether group information is memorized, The above-mentioned group setting means is constituted so that group setting may be performed, when it has been recognized that group information is memorized by the above-mentioned recognition means.

[0008](2) The above-mentioned transmitting means and the above-mentioned reception means are made possible by transmission and reception when it has been recognized that group information is memorized by the above-mentioned recognition means.

[0009](3) According to release operation, the above-mentioned transmitting means is constituted so that image data obtained by the above-mentioned imaging means may be automatically transmitted to other electronic cameras set up by the above-mentioned group setting means.

[0010](4) When it is made possible by setting out so that it may function as a master or a slave in a group set up by the above-mentioned group setting means, and set as a master, In a case where there are other electronic cameras furthermore it receives image data transmitted from other electronic cameras which are functioning as a slave and is functioning as a slave, When it is constituted so that

this image data may be transmitted to the electronic camera, and set as a slave, it is constituted so that image data obtained by the above-mentioned imaging means may be transmitted to other electronic cameras which are functioning as a master.

[0011](5) It has a detection means for detecting whether other electronic cameras by which group setting was carried out [ above-mentioned ] exist within limits which can be transmitted and received according to the above-mentioned transmitting means and the above-mentioned reception means, When an existence of other electronic cameras by which group setting was carried out by the above-mentioned detection means is not detected, self is set up function as a master, and self is set up function as a slave when an existence of other electronic cameras by which group setting was carried out by the above-mentioned detection means is detected.

[0012](6) It has a setting-out means for setting up a file name so that a file name of image data obtained by photography between electronic cameras by which group setting was carried out [ above-mentioned ] may not overlap.

[0013]The above-mentioned group information for performing group setting that a recording medium concerning this invention is a recording medium with which the above-mentioned electronic camera can be equipped, and image data should be shared among two or more electronic cameras was recorded beforehand.

[0014]

[Embodiment of the Invention]Hereafter, the embodiment of this invention is described with reference to drawings.

[0015](Fundamental concept) Drawing 1 and drawing 2 are the figures for explaining the fundamental concept in the embodiment of this invention.

[0016]The group (the group A, the group B) is constituted by two or more electronic cameras with which each example shown in drawing 1 and drawing 2 was provided with the memory card. Between the electronic cameras in each group, the image data which can send and receive the image data of a taken image now by radio, and received from other electronic cameras can be memorized now to a memory card.

[0017]In the example of drawing 1, the group A is set up by three sets of the electronic cameras 1A (equipped with the memory card 2A, respectively), The group B is set up by three sets of another electronic cameras 1B (equipped with memory card 2B, respectively), and image data can be sent and received between the electronic cameras in each group. Namely, direct image data can be transmitted now from arbitrary electronic cameras to other electronic cameras in the same group.

[0018]Like [ the example of drawing 2 ] the example of drawing 1, while the group A is set up by three sets of the electronic cameras 1A, the group B is set up by three sets of another electronic cameras 1B, but in this example, one of three sets of electronic cameras functions as a master, and other two sets are functioning as a slave. Although image data can be mutually sent and received between the electronic camera which functions as a master, and the electronic camera which functions as a slave, between the electronic cameras which function as a slave, image data is sent and received via the electronic camera which functions as a master. However, there is not necessarily an electronic camera for exclusive use used as a master or a slave, and the electronic camera which serves as a master or a slave by a suitable method is set up.

[0019]Group information is memorized by the memory card, and when an electronic camera reads group information from a memory card, setting out and distinction of a group are automatically performed also for the example of a gap to be shown in drawing 1 and drawing 2. It continues at photographing operation and transmission and reception of the image data within a group are performed automatically. It is a shipping stage of a memory card, record of the group information to a memory card may already be made to be performed, and the group information setting up function provided in the personal computer or the electronic camera may perform it.

[0020]Thus, since the group who becomes a memory card from two or more electronic cameras based on the group information memorized beforehand is set up automatically and transmission and reception of image data are automatically performed between the electronic cameras in the set-up group, If each electronic camera is equipped with the memory card in which group information is memorized, It is not necessary to perform troublesome setting out/operation for transmitting and receiving image data, and even if each photography person in particular is not conscious of transmission and reception of image data, he can acquire the image data of the picture which other photography persons photoed automatically. Therefore, image data is easily sharable between each electronic camera (i.e., between each photography person).

[0021](Equipment configuration) Drawing 3 is a block diagram showing the outline of the equipment configuration of the electronic camera concerning this embodiment.

[0022]The fundamental composition of an image pick-up part is the same as that of the usual electronic camera, and comprises the image sensor 12 which consists of optoelectric transducers, such as the taking-lens system 11 and CCD, the image pick-up circuit 13, and the A/D conversion circuit 14. That is, the picture signal by which digital conversion was carried out is acquired by carrying out photoelectric conversion of the object image in which image formation was carried out by the taking-lens system 11 with the image sensor 12, and inputting into the A/D conversion circuit 14 the picture signal by which photoelectric conversion was carried out via the image pick-up circuit 13. The lens of the taking-lens system 11 is driven by the lens actuator 16 based on the control from the lens drive control circuit 15.

[0023]The system controller (system component) 17 has a function which controls each part of an electronic camera, and also has various processing functions, such as image processing. The ASIC section 18 has the compression elongation processing function to perform JPEG compression processing and JPEG elongation processing.

[0024]RAM part 19 has a function as a buffer memory, and the image data etc. which were obtained by the image pick-up part are memorized temporarily, and also it is used as workspace of various processings, such as image processing. ROM part 20 memorizes beforehand the data for an operation etc. which are used for various processing etc.

[0025]The memory interface 21 is an interface for sending and receiving information between the memory cards 23 inserted in the card slot 22, and via this memory interface 21, Writing of the picture information to the memory card 23 and read-out of the picture information from the memory card 23 are performed. The group information explained previously is memorized by the memory card 23, group information is read via the memory interface 21, and group information is distinguished with the system component 17.

[0026]The radio transmission and reception circuit 24 is for communicating among other electronic cameras via the antenna 25, and picture information etc. can be sent and received among other electronic cameras with this radio transmission and reception circuit 24 and antenna 25.

[0027]The image data which the video memory 26 holds the image data for a display, and was held at the video memory 26 is sent to the video output circuit 27, and a picture is displayed on image display LCD28 by the signal from this video output circuit 27. The output signal from the video output circuit 27 can be sent out now to an external instrument via the video out terminal 29.

[0028]The final controlling element 30 gives various kinds of directions to an electronic camera, and comprises a release button zoom lever, a mode selection switch, etc. The power supply section 31 supplies electric power to each part of an electronic camera, and can also connect an external power now to this power supply section 31 via the external power input terminal 33 besides the cell 32. When the strobe light part 34 performs speed light photography, it makes a stroboscope emit light.

[0029](Operation flow) Operation of this embodiment is hereafter explained with reference to the flow chart shown in drawing 4 - drawing 7.

[0030]Drawing 4 is the flow chart which showed operation of the initialization processing at the time of camera starting.

[0031]First, when the check of whether the card slot 22 is equipped with the memory card 23 is performed (S1, S2) and it is equipped with the memory card 23, it is distinguished whether it is the memory card in which group information (group ID information) is recorded (S3). When group information is recorded, it is set to picture share mode, i.e., the mode in which send and receive image data between the electronic cameras in a group, and a mutual picture is shared, and transmission and reception of image data are attained (S4).

[0032]Then, detection of whether the same group's electronic camera already set up as a master in the fixed range in which radio is possible exists is performed (S5, S6), and in not existing, it sets itself as a master (S7). In existing, after setting oneself as a slave (S8), the camera ID information of other electronic cameras set as the master is acquired, and it transmits to (S9) and the electronic camera further set as the master in its own camera ID information (S10).

[0033]Since the electronic camera which functions as the electronic camera which functions as a master in the same group by performing initialization processing mentioned above, and a slave is set up automatically, it is not necessary to perform troublesome setting operation, and improvement in user-friendliness can be aimed at.

[0034]Drawing 5 is the flow chart which showed operation of photographing processing.

[0035]By first, release button operation (first release (S23), second release (S25)) of the final controlling element 30 after operating the zoom lever of the final controlling element 30 if needed and moving a zoom lens (S21, S22). AE, AF processing (S24), and image pick-up processing (S26) are performed.

[0036]Then, white balance processing, image processing, etc. are performed to the image data obtained

by image pick-up processing (S27), and the image data which performed data compression processing (JPEG compression processing) further is recorded on the memory card 23 (S28, S29).

[0037] Then, it is judged whether he is set as the master. (S30). When set as the master, image data is transmitted to all other electronic cameras set as the slave (S31), and when set as the slave, image data is transmitted to the electronic camera set as the master (S32).

[0038] Thus, since image data is automatically transmitted to other electronic cameras according to release operation, image data can be shared between each electronic camera, without being conscious of transmission and reception of image data, and improvement in user-friendliness can be aimed at.

[0039] Drawing 6 is the flow chart which showed operation of the reception of the electronic camera set as the master. When set as the master, according to the Request to Send from the electronic camera set as the slave (S41), image data is received from this electronic camera (S42), and the image data which received is transmitted to the electronic camera set as other slaves (S43).

[0040] Drawing 7 is the flow chart which showed operation of the reception of the electronic camera set as the slave. When set as the slave, according to the Request to Send from the electronic camera set as the master (S51), image data is received from this electronic camera (S52).

[0041] Drawing 8 is a figure showing the example about how to attach the file name of the image data recorded on each memory card with which each electronic camera was equipped.

[0042] It is made to change a file name between each electronic camera from (a) before a share beforehand, and enables it to use it for (b) as it is after sharing the file name attached before the share from sharing mutually the image data photoed with each electronic camera in the same group. Since a group is constituted from three sets of electronic cameras, the file name assigned to each electronic camera is made to become a multiple of 3, the multiple+1 of 3, and the multiple+2 of 3 in the example shown in drawing 8.

[0043] Thus, the file management after an image data share, etc. become easy by keeping the file name from overlapping beforehand between each electronic camera.

[0044] As mentioned above, although the embodiment of this invention was described, it is possible for this invention to change within limits which are not limited to the above-mentioned embodiment and do not deviate from the meaning variously, and to carry out.

[0045]

[Effect of the Invention] Since the image data of the picture which constituted the group from two or more electronic cameras, and was photoed with each electronic camera in a group can be automatically transmitted and received by radio according to this invention, The photography person can carry out without being conscious of transmission and reception of image data, and it becomes possible to share image data easily between each electronic camera.

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## DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

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### [Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1]The figure for explaining the fundamental concept of the embodiment of this invention.

[Drawing 2]The figure for explaining the fundamental concept of the embodiment of this invention.

[Drawing 3]The block diagram showing the outline of the equipment configuration of the electronic camera concerning the embodiment of this invention.

[Drawing 4]The flow chart which showed operation of the electronic camera concerning the embodiment of this invention.

[Drawing 5]The flow chart which showed operation of the electronic camera concerning the embodiment of this invention.

[Drawing 6]The flow chart which showed operation of the electronic camera concerning the embodiment of this invention.

[Drawing 7]The flow chart which showed operation of the electronic camera concerning the embodiment of this invention.

[Drawing 8]The figure showing how to attach the file name of the image data which starts the embodiment of this invention and is recorded on a memory card.

### [Description of Notations]

1A, 1B — Electronic camera

2A, 2B — Memory card

11 — Taking-lens system

12 — Image sensor

13 — Image pick-up circuit

14 — A/D conversion circuit

15 — Lens drive control circuit

16 — Lens actuator

17 — System controller

18 — The ASIC section

19 — RAM part

20 — ROM part

21 — Memory interface

21 — Card slot

23 — Memory card

24 — Radio transmission and reception circuit

25 — Antenna

26 — Video memory

27 — Video output circuit

28 — Image display LCD

29 — Video out terminal

30 — Final controlling element

31 — Power supply section

32 — Cell

33 — External power input terminal

34 — Strobe light part

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[Translation done.]



(19) 日本国特許庁 (J P) (12) 公開特許公報 (A)

(11) 特許出願公開番号  
特開2001-333365  
(P2001-333365A)  
(43) 公開日 平成13年11月30日 (2001.11.30)

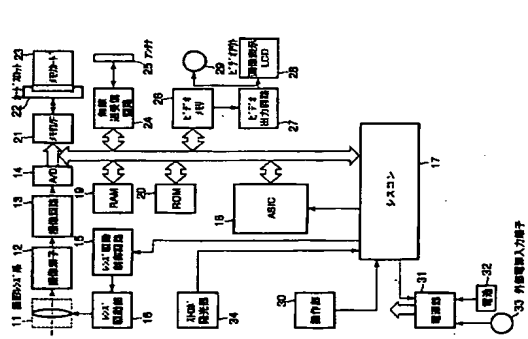
(51) IntCl. <sup>7</sup>	F I	識別記号	特許庁 (参考)
H 04 N	5/907	H 04 N	B 5 C 0 2 2
5/225	5/225	F 5 C 0 5 2	Z 5 C 0 5 4
5/232	5/232	Z 5 C 0 5 4	Z
7/18	7/18	A	

審査請求 未請求 請求項の数 8 O L (全 8 頁) 最終頁に続く

(21) 出願番号 特開2000-148511(P2000-148511)  
(71) 出願人 000000376  
オリンパス光学工業株式会社  
東京都渋谷区南横町4番2丁目43番2号  
(72) 発明者 奥田 智也  
東京都渋谷区南横町4番2丁目43番2号 オリ  
ンパス光学工業株式会社内  
(74) 代理人 100059479  
弁理士 鈴木 武彦 (外4名)

(54) 発明の名称 電子カメラ及び記録媒体

(67) 要約  
【課題】 電子カメラ間で画像データを容易に共有することが可能な電子カメラ及び記録媒体を提供する。  
【解決手段】 結像された被写体像を光電変換して電子的な画像データを得るための撮像素子12と、他の電子カメラとの間で画像データを共有するべく、他の電子カメラとグループ設定を行うためのグループ設定手段17と、グループ設定手段によりグループ設定された他の電子カメラに撮影した画像の画像データを無線によって送信するための送信手段24と、グループ設定手段によりグループ設定された他の電子カメラから送信された画像データを受信するための受信手段24と、撮像素子12より得られた画像データ又は受信手段24により受信した画像データを記録媒体23に記録するための記録手段21、22とを備える。



の存在が検出されないときには、自己をマスターとして機能するように設定し、  
上記検出手段によりグループ設定された他の電子カメラの存在が検出されたときには、自己をスレーブとして機能するように設定することを特徴とする請求項6に記載の電子カメラ。

【請求項7】 上記グループ設定された電子カメラ間で撮像素子から得られた画像データのファイル名が重複しないようにファイル名を設定するための設定手段を備えたことを特徴とする請求項1乃至6のいずれかに記載の電子カメラ。

【請求項8】 請求項2に記載の電子カメラに装着可能な記録媒体であって、複数の電子カメラ間で画像データを共有するべくグループ設定を行うための上記グループ情報を予め記録された記録媒体。

【0001】  
【発明の属する技術分野】 本発明は、電子カメラ及び記録媒体、特に複数の電子カメラ間で撮像素子の送受を行うことが可能な技術に関する。

【0002】  
【従来の技術】 電子カメラ間で画像データの送受を行うことが可能なものとして、例えば特開平9-284696号公報には、ケーブル或いは赤外線を用いて画像データの送受を行う技術が開示されている。

【0003】  
【発明が解決しようとする課題】 しかしながら、旅行などで他の電子カメラで撮影した画像を他の電子カメラに送りたい場合、撮影の後で画像データの送信指示を送らなければならないことから、そのための操作が煩雑であり、複数の電子カメラ間で画像データを共有することは容易ではなかった。

【0004】 本発明は上記従来の課題に対してなされたものであり、電子カメラ間で画像データを容易に共有することが可能な電子カメラ及び記録媒体を提供することを目的としている。

【0005】  
【課題を解決するための手段】 本発明に係る電子カメラは、結像された被写体像を光電変換して電子的な画像データを取得するための撮像素子と、他の電子カメラとの間で画像データを共有するべく、他の電子カメラとグループ設定を行うためのグループ設定手段と、上記グループ設定手段によりグループ設定された他の電子カメラに撮影した画像の画像データを無線によって送信するための送信手段と、上記グループ設定手段によりグループ設定された他の電子カメラから送信された画像データを受信するための受信手段と、上記受信手段により受信した画像データを記録媒体に記録するための記録手段と、を備えたことを特徴とする。

【0006】上記電子カメラ間の好ましい情報は以下の通りである。

【0007】(1) 上記記録媒体を装着するための装着手段と、上記装着手段に装着された記録媒体にグループ情報を読み取られているか否かを検出するための検出手段とを備え、上記グループ装着手段は、上記検出手段によりグループ情報が記録されていることが検出されたときにグループ設定を行うように構成されている。

【0008】(2) 上記送受信手段及び上記装着手段は、上記装着手段によりグループ情報が記録されていることが検出されたときに送受信可能になされている。

【0009】(3) 上記送受信手段は、リリース操作に応じて、上記装着手段により得られた画像データを上記グループ装着手段により設定された他の電子カメラに対して自動的に送信するように構成されている。

【0010】(4) 上記グループ装着手段により設定されたグループ内において、マスター又はスレーブとして機能するように設定可能な場合、マスターに設定されたときには、スレーブとして機能している他の電子カメラから送信された画像データを受信し、スレーブとして機能しているさらに他の電子カメラがある場合において、該画像データをその電子カメラに送信するように構成され、スレーブに設定されたときには、上記装着手段により得られた画像データを、マスターとして機能している他の電子カメラに送信するように構成されている。

【0011】(5) 上記グループ設定された他の電子カメラが上記装着手段及び上記受信手段による送受信可能範囲内に存在するか否かを検出するための検出手段を備え、上記検出手段によりグループ設定された他の電子カメラの存在が検出されないときは、自己をマスターとして機能するように設定し、上記検出手段によりグループ設定された他の電子カメラの存在が検出されたときには、自己をスレーブとして機能するように設定する。

【0012】(6) 上記グループ設定された電子カメラ間で撮影により得られた画像データのファイル名が重複しないようにファイル名を設定するための設定手段を備えている。

【0013】本発明に係る記録媒体は、上記電子カメラに装着可能な記録媒体であって、複数の電子カメラ間で画像データを共有すべくグループ設定を行うための上記グループ情報が予め記録されたことを特徴とする。

【0014】

【発明の実施の形態】以下、本発明の実施形態を図面を参照して説明する。

【0015】(基本概念) 図1及び図2は、本発明の実施形態における基本的な概念を説明するための図である。

【0016】図1及び図2に示した例は例にすぎず、メモリカードを備えた複数の電子カメラによってグループ(グループA、グループB)が構成されている。各グル

ープ内の電子カメラ間では撮影画像の画像データを無線によって送受信できるようにしており、他の電子カメラから受信した画像データはメモリカードに記憶できるようにしている。

【0017】図1の例では、3台の電子カメラ1A(それぞれメモリカード2Aが装着されている)によってグループAが設定され、別の3台の電子カメラ1B(それぞれメモリカード2Bが装着されている)によってグループBが設定されており、各グループ内の電子カメラ相互間で画像データの送受信を行うことができる。すなわち、任意の電子カメラから同一グループ内の他の電子カメラに対して直接画像データを送受信できるようにしている。

【0018】図2の例も図1の例と同様、3台の電子カメラ1AによってグループAが設定されるとともに、別の3台の電子カメラ1BによってグループBが設定されているが、この例では、3台の電子カメラのうち1台がマスターとして機能し、他の2台がスレーブとして機能している。マスターとして機能する電子カメラとスレーブとして機能する電子カメラとの間で相互に画像データの送受信を行うことができるが、スレーブとして機能する電子カメラ間ではマスターとして機能する電子カメラを介して画像データの送受信を行うようにになっている。ただし、マスター或いはスレーブとなる専用の電子カメラがあるわけではなく、適当な方法によってマスター或いはスレーブとなる電子カメラが設定される。

【0019】図1及び図2に示した例は例にすぎず、グループ情報はメモリカードに記憶されており、電子カメラがメモリカードからグループ情報を読み出すことによってグループの設定や判断が自動的に行われる。また、グループ内での画像データの送受信は、撮影動作に引き続いて自動的に行われるようになっており、なお、メモリカードへのグループ情報の記録は、メモリカードの出発段階ですべて行われているようにしてもよいし、パソコン或いは電子カメラに設けたグループ情報記憶機能によって行うようにしてもよい。

【0020】このように、メモリカードに予め記憶されているグループ情報に基づいて複数の電子カメラからなるグループが自動的に設定され、設定されたグループ内の電子カメラ間で自動的に画像データの送受信が行われるので、各電子カメラにグループ情報が記憶されているメモリカードを装着しておけば、画像データの送受信を行うための画面設定/操作を行わなくてもよく、各撮影者は画像データの送受信を特に意識しなくても自動的に他の撮影者が撮影した画像の画像データを取得することができる。したがって、各電子カメラ間すなわち各撮影者間で容易に画像データを共有することができ、

【0021】(装置構成) 図3は、本実施形態に係る電子カメラの装置構成の概略を示したブロック図である。

【0022】装置部の基本的な構成は、通常の電子カメ

【0029】(動作フロー) 以下、本実施形態の動作について、図4～図7に示したフローチャートを参照して説明する。

【0030】図4は、カメラ起動時における初期化処理の動作を示したフローチャートである。

【0031】まず、カードスロット22にメモリカード23が装着されているか否かのチェックが行われ(S1、S2)、メモリカード23が装着されている場合には、グループ情報(グループID情報)が記録されているメモリカードか否かが判別される(S3)。グループ情報が記録されている場合には、画像共有モードすなわち、グループ内の電子カメラ間で画像データの送受信を行うて互いの画像を共有するモードに設定され、画像データの送受信が可能となる(S4)。

【0032】続いて、無線通信可能な一定範囲内に存在する電子カメラとして設定されている同一グループの電子カメラが存在するか否かの検出が行われ(S5、S6)、存在しない場合には自分自身をマスターに設定する(S7)、存在する場合には自分自身をスレーブに設定した後(S8)、マスターに設定されている他の電子カメラのカメラID情報を取得し(S9)、さらに自分自身のカメラID情報をマスターに設定されている電子カメラに送信する(S10)。

【0033】上述した初期化処理を行うことにより、同一グループ内において、マスターとして機能する電子カメラ及びスレーブとして機能する電子カメラが自動的に設定されるため、画面設定操作を行う必要がなく、使い勝手の向上をはかることができる。

【0034】図5は、撮影処理の動作を示したフローチャートである。

【0035】まず、必要に応じて操作部30のズームレバーを操作してズームレンズを移動させた後(S21、S22)、操作部30のリリースボタン操作(フリーストリリース(S23)、セカンダリリリース(S25))により、AE及びAF処理(S24)及び構図処理(S26)が行われる。

【0036】続いて、撮影処理によって得られた画像データに対してホワイトバランス処理や画像処理等を実施(S27)、さらにデータ圧縮処理(JPEG圧縮処理)を行った画像データをメモリカード23に記録する(S28、S29)。

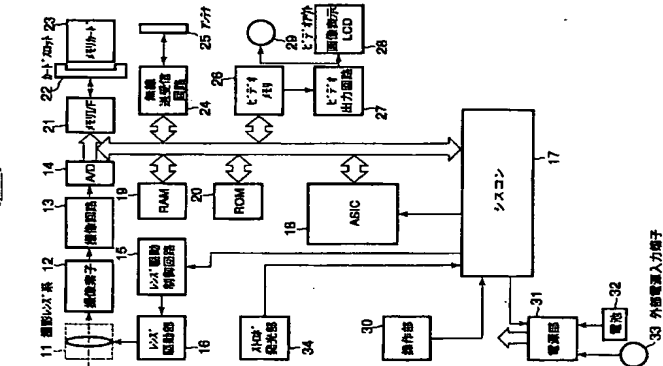
【0037】続いて、自分自身がマスターに設定されているか否かが判断され(S30)、マスターに設定されている場合にはスレーブに設定されている他の電子カメラ全てに画像データを送信し(S31)、スレーブに設定されている場合にはマスターに設定されている電子カメラに画像データを送信する(S32)。

【0038】このように、リリース操作に応じて自動的に他の電子カメラに画像データが送信されるので、画像データの送受信を意識することなく各電子カメラ間で画像

めの図。

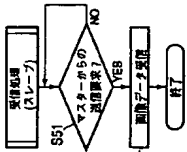
したフローチャート。

される画像データのファイル名の付け方について示した。

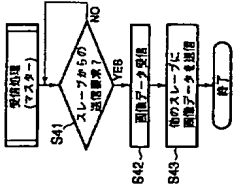


Fターム(参考) 5C022 A413 A816 A866 A001 AC32  
AC33 AC42 AC73 AC74  
5C052 A417 D002 G402 G806 G005  
G008  
5C054 A401 A405 G404 C002 CH02  
D407 E401 E403 E407 F402  
G404 G801 G003

【図7】



【図6】



【図8】

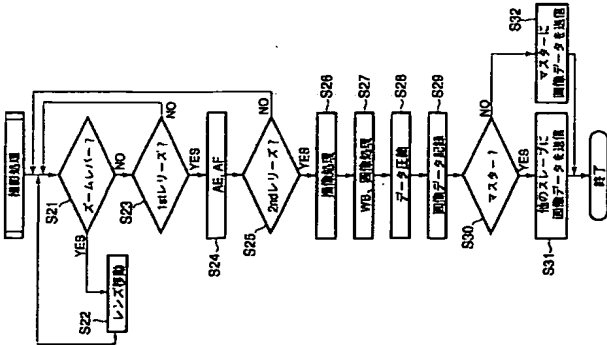
(a) 表情報

カメラA	カメラB	カメラC
P1010001.JPG	P1010002.JPG	P1010003.JPG
P1010004.JPG	P1010005.JPG	P1010006.JPG
P1010007.JPG	P1010008.JPG	P1010009.JPG
.	.	.
.	.	.
.	.	.

(b) 表情報

カメラA	カメラB	カメラC
P1010001.JPG	P1010001.JPG	P1010001.JPG
P1010002.JPG	P1010002.JPG	P1010002.JPG
P1010003.JPG	P1010003.JPG	P1010003.JPG
P1010004.JPG	P1010004.JPG	P1010004.JPG
P1010005.JPG	P1010005.JPG	P1010005.JPG
P1010006.JPG	P1010006.JPG	P1010006.JPG
.	.	.
.	.	.

【図5】



フロントページの続き

(51) Int. Cl.<sup>7</sup> H04N 7/18  
H04N 7/18  
// H04N 101:00  
F I 7/18 101:00  
カメラ (参考) U